

Message Text

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44

ACTION HEW-04

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SUBJECT: NIH PROJECT NO 03-503-N ENTITLED STUDIES IN THE HISTORY
OF ARABIC MEDICINE AND THERAPY

REF: JEANNE BRAND/SUZANNE RAPHAEL LETTER 6/20/75

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN ADVISED BY DR. GALAL MOUSA, PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR FOR SUBJECT PROJECT, THAT PROJECT'S RECENT BUDGETARY SUPPLEMENT FOR PURPOSES OF INCREASING PROFESSIONAL SALARIES IS BEING WITHHELD BY DR. KAMAL, VICE PRES FOR RESEARCH, ASSUIT UNIV. ACCORDING TO MOUSA, DR. KAMEL FEELS THAT, EVEN THOUGH HE ORIGINALLY APPROVED INCREASE, SALARIES ARE TOO HIGH. HOUSA IS STRNEUSOULY OBJECTING TO HIS WITHHOLDING OF FUNDS AND HAS ASKED EMBASSY TO ASSIST HIM IN GAINING THEIR RELEASE.

2. BASED ON ABOVE, EMBOFF TELEPHONED DR. KAMEL JULY 29 AND ASKED HIM TO PROVIDE STATUS REPORT ON GRANT AMENDMENT. KAMEL SAID THAT FINAL APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF INCREASES MUST COME FROM FACULTY OF ARTS COMMITTEE AT MINIA CAMPUS WHERE GRANT BEING CARRIED OUT. HE EXPLAINED THAT HIS ORIGINAL COUNTERSIGNATURE WAS NOT FINAL DETERMINATION. KAMEL SAID HE REQUESTED APPROVAL FOR INCREASE TWO MONTHS AGO BUT THUS FAR DECISION NOT TAKEN. HE PROMISED

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TO FOLLOW UP PROMPTLY. BY WAY OF INFORMATION, KAMEL SAID HE

THOUGHT MINIA COMMITTEE WAS THINKING OF ADDING MORE PEOPLE TO GRANT INSTEAD OF AGREEING TO SALARY INCREASES. KAMEL ASSURED EMBOFF THAT SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDS ARE CURRENTLY BEING HELD BY UNIVERSITY, THAT THEY WILL BE RETURNED IF DECISION OF COMMITTEE IS NEGATIVE OR THEY WILL BE HELD PENDING DHEW APPROVAL OF ANY PROPOSED AMENDMENTS E.G. ADDITION OF MORE RESEARCHERS. EMBOFF THANKED KAMEL FOR COOPERATION AND ASKED THAT HE NOTIFY EMBASSY WHEN FINAL ACTION TAKEN.

3. AS MENTIONED IN REFERENCE, QUESTION OF SALARIES IS INTERNAL RESPONSIBILITY OF UNIVERSITY; IF UNIVERSITY NOW FEELS SALARIES TOO HIGH, IT MAY, OF COURSE, DISAPPROVE INCREASE.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS PERHAPS FIRST INDICATION OF POTENTIAL PROBLEM WITH SALARY PORTION OF GRANTS. LOCAL PROFESSIONAL WAGE SCALE IS LOW. PROFESSIONALS SUCH AS MOUSA RECEIVE ONLY ABOUT 100 EGYPTIAN POUNDS PER MONTH ON AVERAGE. AMENDED GRANT STIPEND THEREFORE IS ALMOST EQUAL TO YEARLY SALARY. GRANT STIPEND, WHILE JUSTIFIED AND EVEN REASONABLE IN OUR TERMS, IS MAGNIFIED OUT OF PROPORTION BY COMPARISON WITH LOCAL WAGES. FOR THIS REASON, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT GRANTING AGENCIES SHOULD LOOK CAREFULLY AT SALARY STIPENDS AS THEY BEGIN TO NEGOTIATE FY76 GRANTS TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY ARE IN LINE WITH INSTITUTION COMPENSATION LEVELS. WHERE SINGLE PRINCIPLE INVESTIGATOR RECEIVES MORE THAN ONE GRANT, WE BELIEVE EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO SPREAD STIPEND AMONG OTHERS PARTICIPATING IN GRANT SO THAT MULTIPLE STIPENDS DO NOT FURTHER EXAGGERATE SALARY PROBLEM.
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